

chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. What we saw there was heart-wrenching. We have heard the audio of children crying: “Mami, papi.”

Madam Speaker, it begs the question: Has our Nation lost its way? But nothing is as heart-wrenching as seeing children's faces in person, kids who were just taken from the arms of their parents, and children in cages crying for their parents. This is child abuse.

Let's be clear, Madam Speaker, this travesty could end today. Donald Trump could end this today by a single phone call.

To my Republican friends on the other side of the aisle, I simply say this: What happened to the party of family values? History will remember this moment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all Members to refrain from references to guests on the floor, and Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

NATION'S MORAL TRADITIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, it is difficult to find words after what has unfolded before our eyes and the eyes of the American people these last few days, and it has gotten worse the last few days.

So today, I rise in defense of children on this House floor to demand of this House and, more importantly, the Trump administration to end this cruel exploitation of children by separating them from their families, by tearing children from their moms, and what appears to be, no doubt, a very craven political tactic by President Trump to try to hold hostage children to get other draconian items done on his immigration bill.

This tactic is fueled by some very ugly things that the American people have to reject. It is fueled by bigotry. It is fueled by hatred. It is fueled by fearmongering and is now being fueled by the endangerment of children.

As a father, as a grandpa, I cannot believe how we are debasing our Nation's moral traditions, how we are replacing our sacred values with autocratic comments and rhetoric from the President.

Mr. President, no more lies, no more child hostages. End this now. You can, and for our Nation's sake and for the children's sake, this needs to be done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ), my friend.

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, it is obvious that the administration doesn't care about the welfare of immigrant children being separated from their parents, but they should at least care about what kind of long-term im-

pact they will have on all children, those currently living in the United States, documented or not, U.S. citizens or not.

We act like kids, all kids, don't know what is going on, but they do. They might not watch CNN, MSNBC, or FOX, but they talk to their classmates, siblings, teachers, and caregivers. They are hearing that kids are being torn away from their parents. We have to ask ourselves: What are they thinking? What goes through their minds? Are the young ones thinking that they can be next?

I am not exaggerating because shortly after the election of Donald Trump, my nephew cried because he thought if my sister left the country—because she is a resident and not a U.S. citizen—that she would not be able to return. So we know that these kids are paying attention. Yes, we might not know for certain what they are all thinking, but what we do know is that this policy must end now.

This must stop for the immigrant children and for all our children so that they feel secure and safe where it is natural, where they feel loved, and that is with their parents.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), my good friend.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, what do you call a country that institutionalizes child abuse? Tragically, today you call that country the United States of America.

We have heard the children screaming. We have seen the images of children being told to go to sleep in cages. We know that children have been ripped from the breasts of nursing mothers and taken away, maybe never to be found to be reunited again.

As a mother, as a grandmother, I can't stand it. Madam Speaker, can you stand it? Can this country stand it? What happens to the soul of America when we do this to children?

These parents have come with their children, fleeing violence; thinking they are coming to the land of the free, the home of the brave; thinking that they are going to be able to get asylum here in the United States of America or at least a chance to get asylum here and to be safe, finally, with their children. Instead, they are put in jail. They are put in prison.

I am here today with Bruce and Felix, children whose parents are in the gallery. They will go home tonight and sleep in a comfortable bed while thousands of children are put to sleep in cages.

I say to you, Mr. President: You can end this. This is your decision. Please, for the sake of our country, for the sake of the children, for the sake of families, end this now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

FAMILY SEPARATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, today, I brought with me two young people: Alcides Guandique, age 11, and Jose Guandique, age 13.

When I look at them, I think of 2 days ago when I visited the Trump detention center at the southern border in San Diego with Members and Leader PELOSI.

There we saw children torn from the arms of their parents under Trump's zero-tolerance policy. We talked to the kids. We talked to the mental health counselors who told us that children are traumatized.

Most of them have come here with their parents because they were threatened with murder and rape by gangs in Central America and Mexico. But because of Trump's policy of separation, these children have lost the one constant person in their lives.

As a psychologist, I took note when the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics visited detained kids. She said that, normally, kids like this are rambunctious and running around. But these kids are either screaming or crying or permanently quiet, and, in fact, that kind of toxic stress can permanently affect their brains.

There is only one way to describe it: government-sanctioned child abuse.

President Trump must own up to the policy that is his and his only. He has the power to stop this terrible cruelty. Instead, he is using these kids as a bargaining chip for \$25 billion for a border wall. It is time for him to stop. Stop ripping children from the arms of their parents. America is better than this.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding time, because I was compelled to come to the floor this morning to protest this cruel Trump GOP policy of family separation. This is a new policy.

Under past Presidents, when people come to this country legally asking for asylum because they are fleeing violence, domestic violence and gang violence in other countries, it is legal to request asylum in the United States of America. But under this new Trump policy that is so cruel and so horrible, he is trying to send a message to the world that this is an anti-immigrant country. We are not. He is trying to send a message to this world that children can be used for pawns. We are not going to let that happen.

President Trump and the GOP now want to use children as bargaining chips to try to exact concessions from Democrats on a very anti-immigrant, very cruel, very wasteful policy, and we need people across America to stand up and speak out.

The calls to my office are overwhelming. People think this family

separation policy that rips children away from their families is horrible and cruel, and it is. And we need you to keep the calls coming.

We are not going to let this happen. We are not going to let children continue to be ripped away from their families, but we need backup.

We are here to say we stand with the families. We love these children. Everyone should love these children, and we are not going to put up with Trump's anti-immigrant, hateful policy any longer.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I spent the day before Father's Day at the Federal prison in Oregon, meeting the 123 asylum-seeking immigrant men who are incarcerated in prison. They were fleeing horrific violence and religious persecution. They were Christian and Sikh men from India. There was an LGBTQ man from Honduras and a man from Mexico whose property was burned because he has been targeted by gangs. We spoke with men who were separated from their wives and children and who, on Father's Day, had no idea where they were or how they were.

Criminalizing asylum seekers and separating families is cruel, and it is appalling.

Now we find out that there are tender-age shelters. Babies don't need their own jail. They need their own parents. This must stop. The President and the Department of Justice could stop it right now.

The American Academy of Pediatrics said that separating families in this way causes irreparable harm. Mistreating children for political leverage is outside of moral bounds, even for this administration.

As a mother, it breaks my heart. As an American and granddaughter of immigrants, it makes me furious.

And if the President won't sign something today, which he could, then, Speaker RYAN, bring us the Keeping Families Together Act, and let us do something to stop this horrific atrocity that is happening to children and to people who are coming to this country.

FAMILIES HAVE A RIGHT TO PETITION FOR ASYLUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, this past week, my colleagues and I traveled to different parts of the border to see firsthand how children, mothers, and fathers are being terrorized by the most anti-immigrant, xenophobic, and racist administration of my lifetime.

We did this because we cannot stand by, cannot stand idly by, and watch the most powerful country in the world tearing children from their mothers

and their fathers at their most vulnerable and desperate moments. The stories of babies and toddlers being torn from the arms of their mothers and fathers, the heartbreaking audio of children crying and screaming for their parents, the account of a distraught father taking his own life after his own child was wrestled from his arms, and of a mother who was deported before she could recover her son from detention, these are the atrocities perpetrated by President Trump, and they must stop.

□ 0930

Families fleeing violence deserve and have a right to petition their claim for asylum, for that is the law of the land.

I am here with two children today to call on this administration to stop this cruel, inhumane practice that betrays who we are as a country.

The President could make the decision to end this practice right now and do the right thing. Failing that, Congress must act.

Madam Speaker, I yield to my distinguished colleague from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, 10 days ago, I visited a Federal prison south of Seattle that holds 174 women. I met with all of those women. They are seeking asylum. One woman had three children. The first child was shot and murdered by gangs. The second child was shot and paralyzed by gangs, and the third child was the child she tried to bring here to safety.

These are the stories of the people who are coming across the border. All of the mothers and the 174 people who were at the Federal prison had not even been able to say good-bye to their children. They did not know where their children were. They had been subjected to the worst conditions at the border.

Madam Speaker, what is this country coming to? This is a country that should value our children, that should value the rights of our children; and these children are sitting in cages on the border in tent cities.

This President created this crisis, and this President can stop this crisis right now with a phone call. Do not tell us it is about Congress. It is about the President of the United States who has chosen to take this democracy to its very bottom.

This is the bottom. This is abuse. It is a human rights violation, and we must end it. He must end it.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ).

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Madam Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues from all over the United States. I would like to ask them all to please step forward and bring your guests. Every Member of Congress is allowed two children under the age of 12. Please bring them forward with you.

I think more powerful than anything I could say is to stand with children.

Please. Please. We only have 5 minutes, but let's take the minutes so the children can step forward. Please bring them forward. All of the Members of Congress, you are all allowed under our rules to have two children.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise Members to not traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Madam Speaker, under the protection of Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, we are here with the children because we believe that this is what is important.

I want to thank all of my colleagues. I know that the rules do not allow all of you to speak. But I think you speak with your presence here and with these children in your arms.

I want to tell you something. I know this is a tragic moment, but this weekend, I couldn't have felt prouder to be an American. I couldn't have felt prouder about just what our exceptionalism is.

I saw Americans everywhere across this country standing up for children, standing up for those who are in need, and standing up for moms and dads who are being separated.

Let's celebrate, too, that America sees this injustice, sees this cruelty, sees this evil, and did not remain silent. That is the America that I am so happy I was born into.

We have a great country. Let's remember that. So let's keep the fight. Let's keep the fight for these children who are here. They are so beautiful.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New Mexico's time has expired.

The gentleman from Illinois is not recognized.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will reiterate an announcement by the Chair on July 7, 2016: An exhibition involving Members trafficking the well is a breach of decorum.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

Rabbi Mark Schifftan, The Temple: Congregation Ohabai Sholom, Nashville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer: